



Happy Friday!

Although the weather really threw us a curve at dismissal yesterday, we had another great week in the Bellefonte Area School District! As promised, I'll be providing covid information weekly in a brief email on Fridays. The CDC has designated Centre County as having a "low" community rate again this week.

Covid Case Counts

Since last Friday (3/25), we received notification of 3 new covid cases (all students) in the district. The 3 new cases include a student from Pleasant Gap Elementary, a student from Marion-Walker Elementary and a student from the Middle School. In all 3 cases, no close contacts were identified.

New Rules for Declining Case Counts

Today, we received notice from the PA Department of Health (PA DoH) and the PA Department of Education (PDE) indicating that school districts are still required to report the number of new covid cases within our schools to the PA DoH/PDE each Friday. However, with the decline in case numbers statewide, we are no longer required to report the number of students who are close contacts/ quarantined, as of today. With the few cases that we have had in our schools over the past several weeks and following the shorter isolation/quarantine lengths from the CDC, we haven't had any identified close contacts within our schools anyway.

So what does this new change from the PA DoH and PDE mean for parents?

- Schools and school districts are still required to keep track of new cases according to the PA DoH and PDE, so parents should notify building principals if their child tests positive for covid.
- Principals and nurses are still available to talk with parents if they have questions about isolation/quarantine periods in their homes or have general questions about covid.
- If there is a significant outbreak in a classroom or student group, we will notify parents whose children may have been exposed, so parents can monitor their children for symptoms.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update on Friday next week. As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding! I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area School District